

THE OKLAHOMA OPPORTUNITY



NEAR ANADARKO, I. T.

OPENING OF THE
KIOWA,
COMANCHE
AND APACHE
RESERVATIONS.



Howes 5921 AR

The Oklahoma Opportunity.

OPENING

OF THE

Kiowa, Comanche and Apache
Reservations.



CHICAGO:
PRESS OF J. C. WINSHIP COMPANY
1900.

JAS. W. STEELE,
AUTHOR.

OKLA
52
5814
041
1900

The New White Man's Country.

An Act of Congress that was approved June 6th, 1900, has opened to settlers, under the Homestead laws, a rich and beautiful country in the South-west. The region covers some four thousand square miles, and must become a subject of interest and enquiry to hundreds of citizens.

To answer this general enquiry and describe without bias or exaggeration the principal features and qualities of this new country, the CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND AND PACIFIC RAILWAY has issued for the use of the public the general description here following.

It may be added that the Rock Island system has no direct interest in the lands soon to be offered to the settler in what is practically a new country. It has long had the only direct line to and across the lands now opened, and in that relation alone is it interested. The territory under consideration has never been settled in the white man's sense of that term, and many of its preliminary experiments have yet to be tried. While the best means obtainable have been used in gathering the facts hereinafter set forth, it is in the nature of the case that instances of thrift and prosperity, the rise in value of lands, and tables of products cannot be given. Occupied by Indian tribes until now, all that can be said in detail is that farming, where so far tried, has been successful, and that the soil is rich without any question.

The political geography of the southwest has greatly changed within the past few years, so that names now used do not always convey to the far-away and uninterested reader a correct idea of boundaries or locality. The country here described is part of the present Territory of Oklahoma; a name doubtless familiar to all, but still conveying little idea of its precise situation in the old "Indian Territory" out of which it was carved. A very brief historical sketch may aid the correctness of the reader's information as to place, direction, extent and locality.

The "Indian Territory" was a name familiar to every school-child at least forty years ago. It was part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, and at first was huge in extent. But Kansas and a part of Nebraska were made out of it, and even after that, and as late as 1860, its northern boundary was the southern line of Kansas, and its eastern the west lines of Arkansas and part of Missouri. The Red river separated it from Texas as far west as the 100th meridian, and thence its western line ran northward to the parallel of 36.30, and then westward to the east line of New Mexico. It contained then the immense area of about 69,000 square miles; 45,000,000 acres, and its future was in no way foreseen.

It got its name in the first place by the idea of the fathers that it was a territory not good for anything, and that white men would never want it. It was therefore regarded as a good place to send Indians to who were very much in the way elsewhere. This idea

was carried out in 1833-38, when President Jackson sent thither, willy-nilly, the Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks and Chicasaws from Florida, and the Seminoles came a little later.

As the territory diminished in size by the cutting off from it of new states many other Indians were sent there. Some of the lands held in it by the original east-of-the-Mississippi Indians were ceded back to the United States to make room for them. In other cases lands were taken and made into reserves further in the western and southern part of the territory. An instance of this is the country here to be described. It was the reservation of the Kiowas, Camanches and Apaches—each very well known in his day in other localities—in the southwest corner of what has now for about seven years been known as Oklahoma.

Everybody remembers the famous "opening" of Oklahoma, in the fall of eighteen hundred and ninety-three. That present prosperous and beautiful country was taken out of the west half of the old Indian Territory south of the Kansas line. The new country now about to be opened is the southwest corner of this. It is by law to become a part of it, and to be admitted as part of the State of Oklahoma when, now in a brief time, she shall be admitted into the Union.

A glance at the map is requested. The new country, by the Act referred to begins "at a point where the Washita river crosses the ninety-eighth meridian west from Greenwich; thence up the Washita river, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to a point thirty miles, by river, west of Fort Cobb, as now established; thence due west on the south of Washita Co., O. T., to the north fork of Red river; thence down said north fork to the Main Red river; thence down said Red River to its intersection with the ninety-eighth meridian of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north, on said meridian line, to the place of beginning."

These are the metes and bounds of the nearly square body of land that has by the Act referred to been devoted to the uses of civilization.

Something near its square miles and acreage has already been mentioned. The question remains which will in one form or another be asked by every interested person: What kind of a country is it?

Whoever visits the new country will obtain in some measure an answer to this question on the road. The Rock Island line leaves the State of Kansas at Caldwell, nearly on the boundary line, and thence southward is in Oklahoma. To the southward at least as far as Chickasha (pronounced *Chickashay*), a town near the northeast corner of the opened reservation, there is no open prairie as far as the vision extends. Improved farms lie side-by-side over the entire country. There is nothing poverty-stricken, mean-looking or sordid in it all. There is agricultural thrift of the highest class. Wheat-stacks dotted the landscape by the score, with all other northern crops, and often fields of cotton were seen. Glimpses of the bare soil show it to be dark brown, often chocolate-colored, and sometimes verging upon dark red. This red soil is by some declared to be the premium wheat-land of the world. Judging by its standing products in August, 1900, there is in Oklahoma no poor land, red or chocolate or brown. There is prosperity and money. The trains are crowded by a local passenger business, and a chair-car changes its entire population some three times in ten hours, and remains always full. Much more than one-half of these passengers are well dressed women and children—all of them the precise opposites of the ideal western farmer's

family of twenty years ago. They tell the story of agriculture in Oklahoma better than even the corn-fields and the wheat-stacks do.

Yet the famous "opening" occurred in the fall of 1893. All of this that one sees is but seven years old. All mere discussions of rain-fall, climate, soil, are placed to one side by evident results. The Territory of Oklahoma has crowded the usual results of twenty-five years of prairie-state growth into these seven years.

Now, the territory to be immediately opened is a part of this, and like this save that to the eye much of it is still more attractive. Undoubtedly a judgment of its real merit as a place in which to make a home may be reasonably somewhat controlled by what one sees now in the same country on the journey thither. It is an answer to the question, What kind of a country is it?

The area of the opened Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Reservation may be given in round numbers as about 4,000 square miles. Within this area lie about 2,560,000 acres. The reservation has never been accurately surveyed and sectionized at this writing, and estimates of its size in acres are approximate only. The above statement is conservative and intended to be well within the limits. There are estimates reaching approximately three million acres. The circumstances under which it is opened are not all stated in the Act of Congress (which see in the appendix hereto). The Indians, man, woman and child, have a first choice of 160 acres each of farming land. There are about three thousand of these individuals all told. This leaves, barred from entry by white men under the law, 480,000 acres out of the 2,560,000. It goes without saying that these lands, first choice by the Indians, will be among the best lands of the reservation. In many cases semi-civilized Indians have been living upon them for years.

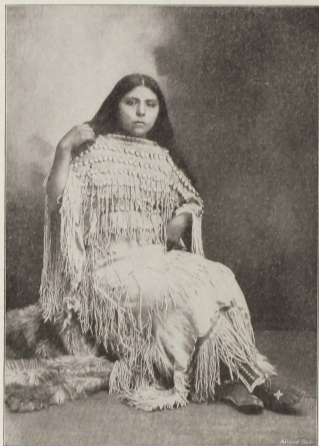
In addition to these farming lands, so to be allotted, the Indians are permitted by the Act to choose and retain 480,000 acres in addition of what the Act calls "grazing lands," "for the use in common of said tribes." The sum of these provisions is that out of the whole area of about 2,560,000 acres, some 960,000 acres go to the Indians first, and as first choice.

Then follows another important provision of the law that should be borne in mind. The titles to the lands they shall choose are to be held in trust for the Indians for a period of twenty-five years. Until that time has passed they have not the title in fee-simple, and cannot in any case sell their allotments or any of the "grazing lands" they shall hold in common. Sometime, in accordance with the course of the history of both the Indian and the white man, these finest lands will all be held by the latter and not by the Indians; but not so now, and they must be counted out for all immediate purposes.

In addition to the Indian allotments exempted as above, the government survey sections numbered 16 and 36, and 13 and 33, are reserved, and are not subject to entry. The law says: "Sections 16 and 36 for the use of the common schools, and sections 13 and 33 for university, agricultural colleges, normal schools and public buildings of the Territory and future State of Oklahoma."

All missions and mission schools and churches now in operation on the reservation are entitled each to the quarter-section on which it stands.

All the remaining lands, after the reservations above enumerated "shall be opened to settlement by proclamation of the President within six months after allotments are made, and 30 days advertising,



ANNA JONES. EDUCATED KIOWA GIRL.

and be disposed of under the general provisions of the homestead and town-site laws of the United States." This is the language of the Act. (See further the entire statute as printed in the appendix hereto.)

The reader will wish to know, perhaps, what this new country is like as it lies to-day, with its soil unturned, and almost as it was before it was even an Indian reservation, when the buffalo and the coyote owned it exclusively. Districts of this description are growing rare. Out of the whole number there are very few persons who have set foot within a country like this; occupied, but not farmed; wanting in towns, county-seats and section-corners, and where there are not even public schools, politics or elections.

The first view is a general one, including the "lay" of the country. Let us, for convenience, imagine the map of this reservation bisected by a line drawn through the center from north to south, and by another line drawn from east to west, thus dividing it into four equal square parts, like a section of land. The Rock Island line runs from north to south just outside of the eastern edge of this quartered square, and again from Chickasha due westward across, and just inside of, its northern edge.

It is, all the four quarters of it, a prairie country. Taking the northern half, above the east-and-west middle line, it will be found to be broken in three localities by what are, relatively considered, mountains. In grandeur, extent and height they are not equal to what a Colorado man calls by that name. They are not clothed with timber to their summits like the Alleghenies. But they are far bigger than what we usually call hills. They seem to be the results of a huge blow-out that occurred at some unknown time amid the æons, in which the molten granite bowels of the earth were thrust up through the limestone crust that had formed on the bottom of what was once a sea. This is not technical geology; it is the way the mountains of this reservation look to the average intelligent observer. The highest of the peaks, such as Mount Scott and Mount Sheridan, in the Wichita mountains, seem to stand at a height of perhaps a thousand feet above the average plain level.

The mountains are all in this northern half of the reservation, and nearly all of them are in the northwest quarter of it. What are called the Keeche hills cover a small territory in the northeast corner. Rainy mountain is in the northwest corner.

To dispose of the question of mountains and broken country while upon that subject, it may be added that the Wichita mountains, mentioned above, include most that is to be said upon that topic. The range is about thirty miles long by about twenty wide, and lies in a direction nearly east and west. The higher elevations are bare, gray granite, very much disintegrated and broken down. The strata are tangled and irregular, sometimes horizontal, often up-and-down or much inclined at all angles. There is no timber supply of any considerable magnitude. Small trees of the varieties common to the latitude are fairly plentiful. The higher points are grassless, and almost without vegetation of any kind. All between, in the ravines and upon the hill-sides, there is a luxuriant growth of grasses of many varieties, and of a denseness and height that indicate a strong soil. The heart of these mountains is, if nothing else, a grazing country almost beyond compare.

A special feature is what in Colorado would be called parks. They lie between the rows of lower hills, and in many cases are of

great extent, sometimes covering thousands of acres. The blue-stem grass, rank everywhere in the reservation, is here waist to shoulder high. There were in August no signs of drouth in its rank growth. To the eye, at least, and by all the usual signs, these parks are all fine farming land, and, above all, the finest alfalfa land conceivable.

It is popularly said that the Wichita mountains hold precious and valuable metals in paying quantities, and the eyes of many have been turned thither upon this chance or certainty, whichever it may be. It is but fair to state that there are two opinions upon this question, and the affirmative and negative sides seem to be held by an almost equal division. There has been no thorough prospecting. It is likely that so far nobody absolutely knows. There are ores there; some even of gold; and without much question there is iron, copper and possibly lead. But nobody can tell how much; nobody seems to know just where.

Outside of the mountains and broken country of this northern half, the reservation is what we are inclined to call "pretty," or a "beautiful country." It lies in long rolls, variegated and uneven without being broken. Many persons whose eyes are long accustomed to the contours of the prairie states say without hesitation that the face of this reservation is the most attractive of them all.

It is a well-watered country. In riding over it one is struck by the frequency of the "turkey-track" formation; that is, by the number of points where the natural drainage channels spread out from one point, branching in many directions, each one a running stream, timber-lined. Going by the roads, trails, across the divides, these are crossed every four or five miles. Immense unbroken plains do not exist here, because each divide, perhaps four to eight miles across the back, is in reality a kind of huge island, with a stream of some size practically all around it.

By latitude and situation this should be what is called a "short grass" country. But it is not. The present writer was surprised to find here, not in spots and swales and low places, but almost everywhere, the rankest variety of what in the plains country immediately west of the Missouri is known as "blue-stem" grass. Nevertheless, on all the steeper slopes, and especially on those of the lower outlying hills of the Wichita mountains, there was a good growth of the grass known as "gramma," a variety that perhaps nowhere else exists as a near neighbor to the blue-stem. This gramma is a valuable variety of winter grass over a large extent of country in the southwest and in Colorado and New Mexico. Wherever it grows elsewhere, so far as the writer knows, the soil in the same region is not such as produces the blue-stem that yields a heavy crop of hay.

All the numerous streams have valleys. Sometimes these are very narrow; often they open out into flat lands from half a mile to two miles wide. All the valleys are timbered. There are three or four varieties of oak, pecans, hackberry in abundance, cottonwood, butternut, etc. The trees are not large. Anyone familiar with the timber-lined streams of eastern Kansas and eastern Nebraska may have a fair idea of the timber situation here, except that the streams are larger; all that were crossed having running water in August; and there are perhaps twice as many of them.

The reader will observe that for the purposes of closer description the reservation was imagined to be bisected by lines running east-and-west and north-and-south, dividing it into two halves or four quarters. All that has been so far said applies to the upper or northern one-half.

The southern half may be conveniently spoken of in two sections, each one-quarter of the entire reservation.

The southeast one-fourth, by this imaginary division, is like the northern one-half, only it is by many regarded as a still better country. The streams are more numerous, the soil is as rich or richer, and to the eye it is one of the most beautiful of prairie countries. A glance at the map shows an extraordinary number of streams large enough to have names, all affluents of the Red river, which is here the southern boundary of the reservation. All these streams have numerous affluents of their own, until the face of the country is lined and striped with watercourses.

To the older idea these numerous streams added very much to the value of a prairie country. To the newer idea they do not figure so largely, because it is the day of the deep well and the windmill. All older Oklahoma is dotted with windmills. Where wells have been made the rule now good over the entire region north of here holds. The under sheet of water is exhaustless and excellent.

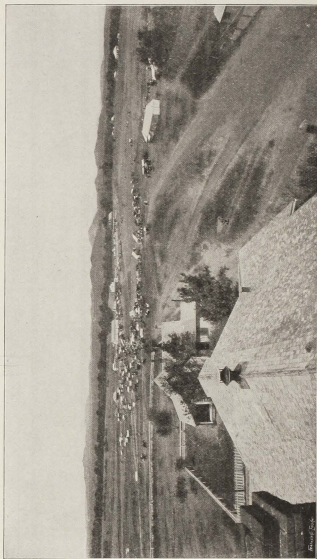
In some respects a contrast to the three-fourths of the reservation thus far described is the remaining southwest quarter. This stretches out into a vast plain, almost level, which extends to the west and southwest far beyond the boundaries of the reservation. The streams are not so numerous as in the eastern and northern parts. It is not so well known as they are so far, and not apparently as attractive. A grass and cattle country it is conceded by all to be, and as such without superior. What it may prove as a farmer's country must be frankly stated to be as yet unknown. It borders upon, and is the northeastern extension of, the plains of northern Texas. Much of it is farming land, so far as the quality of the soil is concerned. That in many years out of the whole number it may lack rainfall is likely. The probabilities in regard to the entire region in which it lies, extending as stated toward the southwest, are that much of it will be farmed, and still larger tracts devoted to grazing.

SOME OF THE GENERAL FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE KIOWA, COMANCHE AND APACHE RESERVATION.

CLIMATE.—Oklahoma lies far to the south. The country above described lies as to its center a little south of Raleigh, Nashville and Santa Fe, and of the thirty-sixth parallel. The same latitude is about the northern line of the cotton-growing country in Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina, and cotton is raised here from about Chickasha southward. There is winter and snow, but it is not the winter of Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota, nor even of southern Indiana and Illinois, or of the Ohio valley. Feed, fuel and the length of time occupied by actual cold weather are of far less moment than they are to every farmer of the regions named. Winter forage for their cattle and horses was never thought of as a necessity by the Indians, and will be now a matter of economy and profit among the new settlers rather than an absolute demand.

There is very little snow. What falls lies but an hour or two. Sunshine prevails largely over clouds or cold during the entire winter.

Yet in August, for several days in succession, on the roads in the central and northern portions of the reservation, the heat was not apparently greater than it is in central Illinois under the same circumstances. There is usually a wind, rising, as is usual in the west, with the sun, and dying down at nightfall. Evenings and nights are cool.



NEAR FT. SILL. WICHITA MOUNTAINS IN DISTANCE.

PRODUCTS AND CROPS RAISED.—The northern farmer who had ridden down the Rock Island line across Oklahoma proper in August, 1900, would without question decide upon winter wheat as the first, surest and most profitable of the products of all this region. Corn he would place second. To these two prime factors of agricultural prosperity may be added cotton. The prosperity visible to the eye in Oklahoma, at the time of this writing, was made by wheat and corn, and of its success the present year, and in 1899 and '98, there can be no question.

In the seven years mentioned on a preceding page fruit has also come forward prominently. It is not a period long enough in which to grow a full-bearing apple orchard, but the peaches and small fruits of Oklahoma are already famous. Melons are immense in product and size, and exquisite in flavor. All the roads of the reservation, wherever one rides, are in the season strewn with the rinds of watermelon, cast there by the (now) gentle savage in his peripatations across the country. Canteloupe is had daily for a month or six weeks, and unlike those of the northern markets they seem all to be finely flavored. These aids to a pleasant and plentiful life on the farm are none of them wanting. It is a climate where the transplanted magnolia will grow and bloom, and where the delicate roses of the north are left without protection out of doors all winter.

There is a third agricultural product that has in recent years come forward as one of the most profitable in the entire list of western crops. Vast areas not sure enough of rainfall to be crop-countries, yet not lacking moisture to such a degree as to forbid farming, have been mainly devoted to it. As a staple, planted but once, it excels tobacco in Kentucky or North Carolina, or cotton anywhere. This is alfalfa.

Now it is with the quality of the uplands, the levels and the table-lands of this new country, that the intending settler has mainly to do; because three thousand Indians have first choice, and will choose, as easiest to them in the corn-and-melon-patch system of farming they are pretty sure to follow when they farm at all, about 480,000 acres of the bottom lands. The "grazing lands" mentioned by the Act, an additional 480,000 acres, is an indefinite proposition. After all Indian holdings are decided upon, however, it still remains that there are 1,500,000 acres or more left to become the homes of white men "under the general provisions of the homestead and town-site laws of the United States." Nearly all of these, leaving out of the question all the bottom lands, are corn and wheat lands if the lands in the older Oklahoma are. They are as rich in depth and as strong in quality and as densely covered with tall grass, as thirty years ago the land was in the richest counties of southeastern Kansas; now one of the finest farming countries in the world.

We will suppose that, as some allege, there is not here every year a sufficiency of rain to assure a profitable corn crop. But there is always enough to grow alfalfa, a dry-weather plant by nature, as is also cotton. Circumstances have caused the present writer to become acquainted with the conditions and profits of alfalfa farming. Riding over this reservation it became evident to him that immense bodies of upland, thousands of acres together, was alfalfa land of the first class.

When all other considerations are laid aside, the entire region of which this is a part is a cattle country. Every farmer who shall come here with a correct idea of how to thrive will be more or less a

stock man. The ideas of profit now prevailing will change, and cattle will be fed in the winter. The wide-horned and narrow-hipped yellow steer that now chases the coyote through the knee-high grass in rented pastures will give place to the graded white-face or short-horn. Smaller areas and greater production will become the rule. The citizens of a country whose uplands will grow alfalfa will be found to grow rich faster than those who in any country raise grain to sell.

A FINAL FACT.

As a final fact, the epoch of securing government homesteads is almost over. The reservation here described is almost the last, if not absolutely so, of the vast realm that was in its day given to whoever would make it his home. The choice is proportionately reduced. It is no longer a question whether the average citizen wants it as a practical gift, but whether he can get it if he wants it

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE KIOWA, COMANCHE AND APACHE RESERVATION.

It is a body of land nearly square, and bounded and described as previously stated. All the towns that are now within the reservation lie along the Rock Island railroad line, traversing the valley of the Wichita river—which is the northern boundary of the reservation westward from the town of Chickasha, which is on the eastern edge of the reservation, on the main line of the Rock Island running from Chicago and Kansas City by way of Topeka, southwest and south through central Kansas to Wichita and the border town of Caldwell, Kan., and thence due south through Oklahoma.

This is at present the only line by which the new country is directly reached.

The chief town of those now within the reservation is Anadarko, the seat of the general agency for all the present tribes who have entered into the agreement, now a law, to abolish the tribal relation and take their lands in severalty and practically become individual citizens of the United States.

Nearly in the center of the reservation is situated the U. S. Military Post of Fort Sill. It was, and still is, an elegant and extensive assertion of the power of the republic in what was, when it was established, a hostile Indian wilderness, unthought of for the uses of civilization.

Settlers are scattered here and there over the reservation, besides the residents of the towns mentioned. Some of them have intermarried with the tribes, and are counted with them by adoption. Others are lessees of Indian grazing-lands, and have large holdings of territory which they have fenced with wire. The money due from rentals is paid to the agent, and through him to the Indians *pro rata*. The law, it will be observed, provides for the maintenance of these contracts for the time agreed upon, but in the nature of the case they cannot be renewed.

It is noticeable, in passing, that no preparations are now made for the feeding of these cattle in winter.

Numerous missions, and mission churches and schools, are scattered over the reservation. Some of these carry on farming operations regularly, and have done so for many years, and among them one hears little, if anything, about crop failures.

THE INDIANS NOW ON THE RESERVATION.

There are, as has been stated, about three thousand of them all told, and of all the three tribes mentioned. One sees them in large numbers at Anadarko and about Fort Sill, and as they are going to be neighbors of ours hereafter their conduct is from that view interesting.

All of them are now, or imagine themselves to be, Christians, either Catholic or Protestant. All except the older ones understand, and can, when they will, speak English. All, up to a certain point, have adopted white men's ideas, garments and ways. As one sees them at their gatherings and meets them on the road, they are pleasant and polite and it is said of them that they are honest and hospitable, and singularly free from quarrels among themselves. In the matter of eating, family living, dancing, pow-wowing, etc., their savage tastes still largely remain with them. Most of the younger Indians have been educated at Carlisle, Hampton, Lawrence, and elsewhere. With singular persistency these nearly all return to feathers, red paint and the blanket. Nevertheless, the white people of the reservation do not complain of any want of decency and order, and make no charges of depredations and theft.

Of the tribes here the Comanches seem to stand highest in the white man's opinion. The Kiowas and Apaches come next in order. The first and last named the present writer has had the honor of knowing distantly under very different circumstances, and the evident change in them seems to him the most remarkable thing now to be seen on the reservation. There need be no hesitancy in accepting in good faith the detribalized red men as neighbors. The old times are gone. The small number of Indians who are dissatisfied with the present arrangement talk of immigrating once more—this time to Old Mexico. As private holders of quarter-sections they will be scattered, or live in small communities, over the extent of a territory very large in proportion to their actual numbers. Some of them are already thrifty stock-raisers, rich in cattle and ponies.

SUMMARY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES OF THE OPENED RESERVE.

It is a rolling and very attractive prairie country.

It is watered by timbered streams in number much above the average in other agricultural prairie regions.

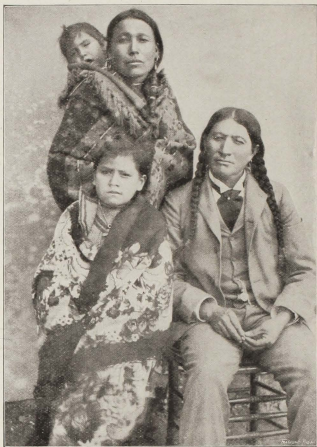
The soil is a loam, dark chocolate to dull red in color, deep, and covered with a rank growth of the same, or apparently the same, blue-stem grass that covered the prairie in eastern Kansas.

There are no swamps or sloughs, and malarial disease is unknown.

The latitude places the country between the north and the south. It grows cold in the winter, but does not make ice in the streams, and old residents say actual winter, such as it is, is about one month long.

Stock lives out of doors without provision or forage. But feed should be, and will be, provided by the new settlers as a matter of economy.

The products are corn, wheat and cotton. It will be the upland alfalfa country *par excellence*. It is a most excellent region for all the small fruits, melons and vegetables. It is known now to be an excellent peach country, and successful in all varieties of fruits that there has been time to try.



AH-PE-AH-TONE. CIVILIZED INDIANS. CHIEF OF KIOWAS AND FAMILY.

The rainfall, as it averages year by year, is not yet reliably known. The people who settled Oklahoma, near by, have been successful as upland farmers, and are to-day as prosperous as any in the republic.

Persons who contemplate settling here under the Homestead Laws should understand that the great bulk of the land, here as everywhere, is upland. The Indian allotments will probably be confined to bottom lands, and they have first choice. They cannot sell the lands they choose. But these uplands, in relation to the bottoms, are at least as good, as they run, as those of eastern Kansas.

It is, at the worst, a magnificent stock country. The deeper wells are inexhaustible, and as it is now in western Nebraska and Kansas, the holding of running natural water on a stock range is not necessary or even desirable.

The region is accessible and comparatively near to market. It will be part of the Territory and later State of Oklahoma. It is now surrounded by farming communities.

The country rock is limestone, and it is what would be called a limestone country. But the ledges, or strata, do not usually crop out on the hillsides and surface. There is gypsum in some of the hills. The water is in some cases "hard," and in others it is "soft." There are numerous mineral springs, and in localities strong indications of petroleum. All the resources of the country cannot be known until some years have passed. It is as a probable residence for many thousand farmers, with all the varied interests and pursuits of a delayed civilization that they shall bring, that the new country is discussed in these pages.

The opened reservation will, when the President's proclamation shall be issued, be the last, or almost the last, chance of the settler upon government land. The public domain, except where as in this case the Indians here and there can be induced to abandon their holdings, is a domain of rocks, alkali and sage. Nevertheless, this last choice is one that would have been among the first had it been accessible and open to settlement when government land was plentiful.

THE LAW UNDER WHICH THE RESERVATION WILL BE OPENED.

* * * * *

SEC. 6. Whereas David H. Jerome, Alfred M. Wilson, and Warren G. Sayre, duly appointed Commissioners on the part of the United States, did, on the sixth day of October, eighteen hundred and ninety two, conclude an agreement with the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache tribes of Indians in Oklahoma, formerly a part of the Indian Territory, which said agreement is in the words and figures as follows:

"Articles of agreement made and entered into at Fort Sill, in the Indian Territory, on the twenty-first day of October, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, by and between David H. Jerome, Alfred M.

Wilson and Warren G. Sayre, Commissioners on the part of the United States, and the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians in the Indian Territory.

"ARTICLE I.

'Subject to the allotment of land, in severalty to the individual members of the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians in the Indian Territory, as hereinafter provided for, and subject to the setting apart as grazing lands for said Indians, four hundred and eighty thousand acres of land as hereinafter provided for, and subject to the conditions hereinafter imposed, and for the considerations hereinafter mentioned, the said Comanche, Kiowa and Apache Indians hereby cede, convey, transfer, relinquish and surrender, forever and absolutely, without any reservation whatever, express or implied, all their claim, title, and interest, of every kind and character, in and to the lands embraced in the following-described tract of country in the Indian Territory, to wit: Commencing at a point where the Washita River crosses the ninety-eighth meridian west from Greenwich; thence up the Washita River, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to a point thirty miles, by river, west of Fort Cobb, as now established; thence due west to the north fork of Red River, provided said line strikes said river east of the one-hundredth meridian of west longitude; if not, then only to said meridian line, and thence due south, on said meridian line, to the said north fork of Red River; thence down said north fork, in the middle of the main channel thereof, from the point where it may be first intersected by the lines above described, to the main Red River; thence down said Red River, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to its intersection with the ninety-eighth meridian of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north, on said meridian line, to the place of beginning.

"ARTICLE II.

"Out of the lands ceded, conveyed, transferred, relinquished, and surrendered by Article I hereof, and in part consideration for the cession thereof, it is agreed by the United States that each member of said Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians over the age of eighteen (18) years shall have the right to select for himself or herself one hundred and sixty (160) acres of land to be held and owned in severalty, to conform to the legal surveys in boundary; and that the father, or, if he be dead, the mother, if members of either of said tribe of Indians, shall have the right to select a like amount of land for each of his or her children under the age of eighteen (18) years; and that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, or some one by him appointed for the purpose, shall select a like amount of land for each orphan child belonging to either of said tribes under the age of eighteen (18) years.

"ARTICLE III.

"That in addition to the allotment of lands to said Indians as provided for in this agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall set aside for the use in common for said Indian tribes four hundred and eighty thousand acres of grazing lands, to be selected by the Secretary of the Interior, either in one or more tracts as will best subserve

the interest of said Indians. It is hereby further expressly agreed that no person shall have the right to make his or her selection of land in any part of said reservation that is now used or occupied for military, agency, school, school-farm, religious, or other public uses or in sections sixteen (16) and thirty-six (36), in each Congressional township, except in cases where any Comanche, Kiowa, or Apache Indian has heretofore made improvements upon and now uses and occupies a part of said sections sixteen (16) and thirty-six (36), such Indian may make his or her selection within the boundaries so prescribed so as to include his or her improvements. It is further agreed that wherever in said reservation any Indian, entitled to take land in severalty hereunder, has made improvements, and now uses and occupies the land embracing such improvements, such Indian shall have the undisputed right to make his or her selection within the area above provided for allotments, so as to include his or her said improvements.

"It is further agreed that said sections sixteen (16) and thirty-six (36) in each Congressional township in said reservation shall not become subject to homestead entry but shall be held by the United States and finally sold for public school purposes. It is hereby further agreed that wherever in said reservation any religious society or other organization is now occupying any portion of said reservation for religious or educational work among the Indians, the land so occupied may be allotted and confirmed to such society or organization, not, however, to exceed one hundred and sixty (160) acres of land to any one society or organization so long as the same shall be so occupied and used; and such land shall not be subject to homestead entry.

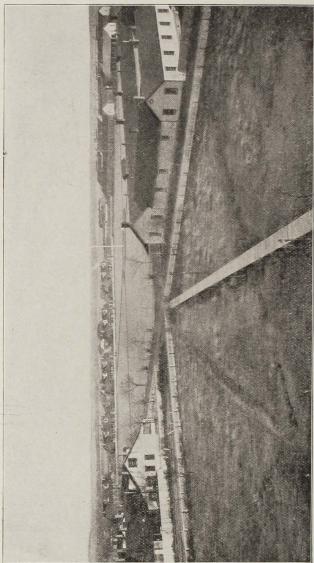
"ARTICLE IV.

"All allotments hereunder shall be selected within ninety days from the ratification of this agreement by the Congress of the United States; *Provided*, The Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, may extend the time for making such selection; and should any Indian entitled to allotments hereunder fail or refuse to make his or her selection of land in that time, then the allotting agent in charge of the work of making such allotments shall within the next thirty (30) days after said time make allotments to such Indians, which shall have the same force and effect as if the selection were made by the Indian.

"ARTICLE V.

"When said allotments of land shall have been selected and taken as aforesaid, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the titles thereto shall be held in trust for the allottees, respectively, for the period of twenty-five (25) years, in the time and manner and to the extent provided for in the act of Congress entitled 'An act to provide for the allotment of land in severalty to Indians on the various reservations, and to extend the protection of the laws of the United States and Territories over the Indians, and for other purposes,' approved February 8, 1887, and an act amendatory thereof, approved February 28, 1891.

"And at the expiration of the said period of twenty-five (25) years the titles thereto shall be conveyed in fee simple to the allottees or their heirs, free from all incumbrances.



FT. SILL, I. T. PARADE GROUND—BARRACKS—HOSPITAL—OFFICERS' QUARTERS—Q. M. DEPT.

"ARTICLE VI.

"As a further and only additional consideration for the cession of territory and relinquishment of title, claim, and interest in and to the lands as aforesaid, the United States agrees to pay to the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians, in the Indian Territory, the sum of two million (\$2,000,000) dollars, as follows: Five hundred thousand (\$500,000) dollars to be distributed per capita to the members of said tribes at such times and in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior shall deem to be for the best interests of said Indians, which sum is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; and any part of the same remaining unpaid shall draw interest at the rate of five per centum while remaining in the Treasury, which interest shall be paid to the Indians annually per capita; and the remaining one million five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000) dollars to be retained in the Treasury of the United States, placed to the credit of said Indians, and while so retained to draw interest at the rate of five per centum per annum to be paid to the said Indians per capita annually.

"Nothing herein contained shall be held to affect in any way any annuities due said Indians under existing laws, agreements or treaties.

"ARTICLE VIII.

"It is further agreed that wherever in said reservation any member of any of the tribes of said Indians has, in pursuance of any laws or under any rules or regulations of the Interior Department taken an allotment, such allotment, at the option of the allottee, shall be confirmed and governed by all the conditions attached to allotments taken under this agreement.

"ARTICLE IX.

"It is further agreed that any and all leases made in pursuance of the laws of the United States of any part of said reservation which may be in force at the time of the ratification by Congress of this agreement shall remain in force the same as if this agreement had not been made.

"ARTICLE X.

"It is further agreed that the following named persons, not members by blood of either of said tribes, but who have married into one of the tribes, to-wit, Mabel R. Given, Thomas F. Woodward, William Wyatt, Kiowa Dutch, John Nestill, James N. Jones, Christian Keoh-tah, Edward L. Clark, George Conover, William Deitrick, Ben Woach, Lewis Bentz, Abilene, James Gardloupe, John Sanchez, the wife of Boone Chandler, whose given name is unknown, Emmitt Cox, and Horace P. Jones, shall each be entitled to all the benefits of land and money conferred by this agreement, the same as if members by blood of one of said tribes, and that Emsy S. Smith, David Grantham, Zonee Adams, John T. Hill, and J. J. Methvin, friends of said Indians, who have rendered to said Indians valuable services, shall each be entitled to all the benefits, in land only, conferred under this agreement, the same as if members of said tribes.

"ARTICLE XI.

"This agreement shall be effective only when ratified by the Congress of the United States."

Said agreement be, and the same hereby is, accepted, ratified, and confirmed as herein amended.

That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to cause the allotments of said lands, provided for in said treaty among said Indians, to be made by any Indian inspector or special agent.

That all allotments of said land shall be made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior to said Indians within ninety days from the passage of this Act, subject to the exceptions contained in article four of said treaty; *Provided*, That the time for making allotments shall in no event be extended beyond six months from the passage of this Act.

That the lands acquired by this agreement shall be opened to settlement by proclamation of the President within six months after allotments are made and disposed of under the general provisions of the homestead and town-site laws of the United States; *Provided*, That in addition to the land-office fees prescribed by statute for such entries the entryman shall pay one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for the land entered at the time of submitting his final proof: *And provided further*, That in all homestead entries where the entryman has resided upon and improved the land entered in good faith for the period of fourteen months he may commute his entry to cash upon the payment of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre: *And provided further*, That the rights of honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors of the late civil war, as defined and described in sections twenty-three hundred and four and twenty-three hundred and five of the Revised Statutes shall not be abridged: *And provided further*, That any person who, having attempted to but for any cause failed to secure a title in fee to a homestead under existing laws, or who made entry under what is known as the commuted provision of the homestead law, shall be qualified to make a homestead entry upon said lands: *And provided further*, That any qualified entryman having lands adjoining the lands herein ceded, whose original entry embraced less than one hundred and sixty acres in all shall have the right to enter so much of the lands by this agreement ceded lying contiguous to his said entry as shall, within the land already entered, make in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres, said land to be taken upon the same conditions as are required of other entrymen: *And provided further*, That the settlers who located on that part of said lands called and known as the "neutral strip" shall have preference right for thirty days on the lands upon which they have located and improved.

That sections sixteen and thirty-six, thirteen and thirty-three, of the lands hereby acquired in each township shall not be subject to entry, but shall be reserved, sections sixteen and thirty-six for the use of the common schools, and sections thirteen and thirty-three for university, agricultural colleges, normal schools, and public buildings of the Territory and future State of Oklahoma, and in case either of said sections, or parts thereof, is lost to said Territory by reason of allotment under this Act or otherwise, the governor thereof is hereby authorized to locate other lands not occupied in quantity equal to the loss.

That none of the money or interest thereon which is, by the terms of the said agreement, to be paid to said Indians shall be applied to the payment of any judgment that has been or may hereafter be rendered under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, entitled "An Act to provide for the adjudication and payment of claims arising from Indian depredations."

That should any of said lands allotted to said Indians, or opened to settlement under this Act, contain valuable mineral deposits, such mineral deposits shall be open to location and entry, under the existing mining laws of the United States, upon the passage of this Act, and the mineral laws of the United States are hereby extended over said lands.

That as the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations claim to have some right, title, and interest in and to the lands ceded by the foregoing treaty as soon as the same are abandoned by said Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians, jurisdiction be, and is hereby, conferred upon the United States Court of Claims to hear and determine the said claim of the Chickasaws and the Choctaws, and to render a judgment thereon, it being the intention of this Act to allow said Court of Claims jurisdiction, so that the rights, legal and equitable of the United States and the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, and the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians in the premises shall be fully considered and determined, and to try and determine all questions that may arise on behalf of either party in the hearing of said claim; and the Attorney-General is hereby directed to appear in behalf of the Government of the United States; and either of the parties to said action shall have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States: *Provided*, That such appeal shall be taken within sixty days after the rendition of the judgment objected to, and that the said courts shall give such causes precedence: *And provided further*, That nothing in this Act shall be accepted or construed as a confession that the United States admit that the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations have any claim to or interest in said lands or any part thereof.

That said action shall be presented by a single petition making the United States party defendant, and shall set forth all the facts on which the said Choctaw and Chickasaw nations claim title to said land and said petition may be verified by the authorized delegates, agents, or attorneys of said Indians upon their information and belief as to the existence of such facts, and no other statement or verification shall be necessary: *Provided*, That if said Choctaw and Chickasaw nations do not bring their action within ninety days from the approval of this Act, or should they dismiss said suit, and the same shall not be reinstated, their claim shall be forever barred: *And provided further*, That, in the event it shall be adjudged in the final judgment or decree rendered in said action that said Choctaw and Chickasaw nations have any right, title, or interest in or to said lands for which they should be compensated by the United States, then said sum of one million five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000) dollars shall be subject to such legislation as Congress may deem proper.

Approved, June 6, 1900.



AT THE TOP OF ONE OF THE WICHITA MOUNTAINS.

HOW TO REACH THE KIOWA *and* COMANCHE RESERVATIONS IN OKLAHOMA

THE Great Rock Island Route is the only line which enters this reservation. ☿ ☿ Solid express trains with standard sleepers and free reclining chair cars daily from Chicago, Davenport, Kansas City, Topeka, Omaha, Lincoln and Ft. Worth, with close connecting trains, making practically through service from St. Louis, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, ☿ also Personally Conducted Tourist Excursions from Chicago and St. Paul, every Tuesday night; from Des Moines, Omaha and Kansas City, every Wednesday, in through sleepers.

Write to Nearest Representative as shown on Page 24, for through rates and time of trains from your point.

BE SURE YOUR TICKET READS VIA

Great Rock Island Route

THE ONLY LINE

REACHING THE NEW RESERVATIONS

JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A.

OFFICERS PASSENGER DEPARTMENT AND PASSENGER REPRESENTATIVES.

JNO. SEBASTIAN, General Pass. and Ticket Agent.....Chicago, Ill.
Chas. Kennedy.....Assistant Gen. Pass. and Ticket Agent, Chicago, Ill.
L. M. Allen.....Assistant Gen. Pass. and Ticket Agent, Chicago, Ill.
E. W. Thompson.....Assistant Gen. Pass. and Ticket Agent, Topeka, Kas.

ATCHISON, KAN.

J. J. Kennedy.....City Passenger and Ticket Agent.
BOSTON, MASS.

290 Washington St.....**I. L. Loomis**.....New England Pass. Agent.
 " ".....**A. C. Turpin**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.
 " ".....**G. A. Finch**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

CHICAGO, ILL.

91 Adams St.....**Geo. F. Lee**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.
 409 Rialto Bldg.....**Geo. S. Pingree**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.
 437 Rialto Bldg.....**Frank L. Miller**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

CINCINNATI, O.

10 Carew Bldg.....**G. D. Bacon**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.

COLORADO SPRINGS.

12 Pike's Peak Ave.....**W. W. Wood**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.

DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Depot.....**S. F. Boyd**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.

DENVER, COL.

800 Seventeenth St.....**W. H. Firth**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.
 " ".....**C. M. VanLaw**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

DES MOINES, IOWA.

441 Walnut St.....**J. A. Stewart**.....District Pass. Agent.

DETROIT, MICH.

11 Fort St. West.....**F. D. Lyon**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

9th and Main Sts.....**A. H. Moffet**.....Gen'l Southwest Pass. Agent.
 " ".....**LeMoyné Moffet**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.
 900 Main St.....**C. W. Jones**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN.

230 Delaware St.....**F. M. Dabrah**.....Commercial Agent.

LINCOLN, NEB.

1045 O St.....**F. H. Barnes**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

237 S. Spring St.....**U. S. G. Hough**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

305 Broadway.....**W. J. Leahy**.....Gen'l Eastern Pass. Agent.
 " ".....**Phil. A. Auer**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.
 " ".....**W. F. Crawford**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

OMAHA, NEB.

16th and Farnam Sts.....**C. A. Rutherford**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.
 " ".....**F. W. Caldwell**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.
 " ".....**J. S. McNally**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

PEORIA, ILL.

Jefferson and Main Sts.....**K. E. Palmer**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.
 " ".....**C. C. Anderson**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

111 S. Ninth St.....**Hal. S. Ray**.....Pass. Agent Middle District.

PITTSBURG, PA.

415 Park Building.....**Perry Griffin**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

PORTLAND, ORE.

250 Alder St.....**A. E. Cooper**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.

PUEBLO, COL.

East End Triangle Bldg.....**C. H. Schell**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Sixth and Edmond Sts.....**Warren Cowles**.....City Pass. and Ticket Agent.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

208 Rialto Bldg.....**G. D. Bacon**.....Gen'l Agent Pass. Dept.
 " ".....**H. P. Mantz**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

SALT LAKE CITY.

100 W. 2nd South.....**T. J. Clark**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

624 Market St.....**Clinton Jones**.....General Agent.
 " ".....**P. A. Ziegenfuss**.....Traveling Pass. Agent.

TOPEKA, KAN.

.....**E. M. Duncan**.....Traveling Agent.

WICHITA, KAN.

.....**E. Drake**.....District Pass. Agent.

READ THE

Western Trail

A QUARTERLY PAPER ISSUED BY
THE
GREAT ROCK ISLAND ROUTE
:::::::::: AT CHICAGO ::::::::::

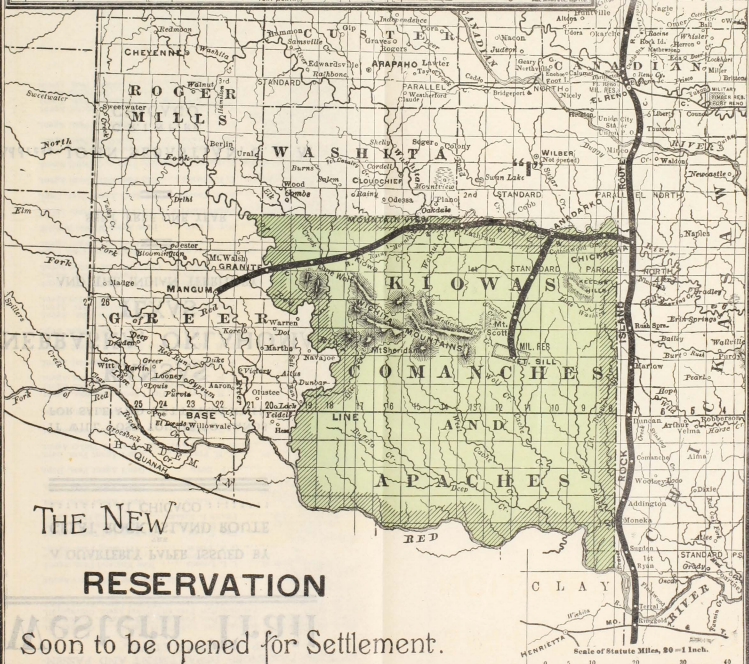
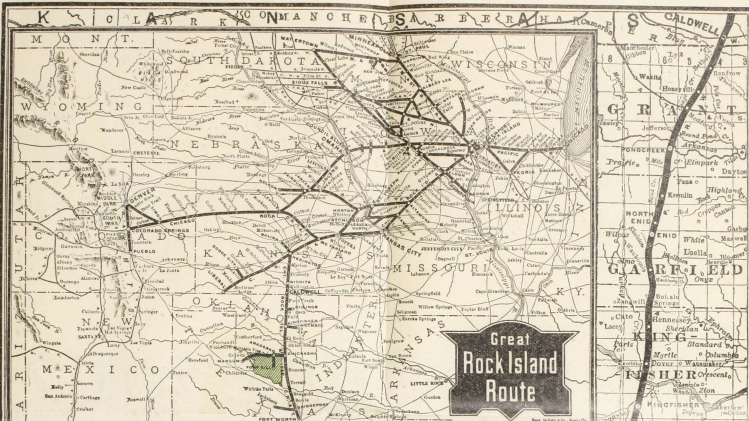
IT WILL POST YOU AS TO LANDS
FOR SALE AND SETTLEMENT IN

KANSAS,
NEBRASKA, OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
AND THE INDIAN TERRITORY

==
SENT FREE ONE YEAR
==

Address JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A.

C. R. I. & P. RY.
CHICAGO

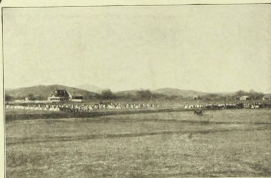


THE NEW RESERVATION

Soon to be opened for Settlement.

Scale of Statute Miles, 0-40
 0 5 10 20 30 40
 Road, No. 1000, & Co. New Reservations. Atlas Map of Indian Territory and Oklahoma.
 Copyright, 1900, by East, St. Paul & Co.

THE OKLAHOMA OPPORTUNITY



NEAR FT. SILL, I. T.

OPENING OF THE
KIOWA,
COMANCHE
AND APACHE
RESERVATIONS.